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Handel's MESSIAH

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 10

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It is requested that there be no applause except at the end of Part One and at the conclusion of the performance. Numbers with the asterisks will not be sung at the Young People's Concert.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Born in Halle, February 23, 1685

Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

ORATORIO, composed in 1741; begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by CHARLES JENNENS. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, under the direction of HANDEL. Additional accompaniments by MOZART, 1789; and by ROBERT FRANZ, for the use of the Handel and Haydn Society, completed and published in 1884. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, December 25, 1818, in Boylston Hall; present performances are the 213th, 214th, 215th and 216th.

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND THE FULFILLMENT

1. Overture (Grave: Fugue).

TENOR RECITATIVE

2. Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

TENOR ARIA

3. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

CHORUS

4. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

BASS RECITATIVE

5. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

BASS ARIA

6. But who may abide the day of His coming! and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

ALTO RECITATIVE

7. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name EMMANUEL, God with us.

ALTO ARIA and CHORUS

8. O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, good tidings to Jerusalem, Arise, say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God! The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

BASS RECITATIVE

- *
9. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

BASS ARIA

- *
10. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

CHORUS

11. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

12. PASTORAL SYMPHONY (on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari).

SOPRANO RECITATIVE

13. There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

14. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

15. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

16. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

CHORUS

17. Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

SOPRANO ARIA

- *
18. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Saviour; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

ALTO RECITATIVE

- *
19. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

ALTO AND SOPRANO ARIA

- *
20. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest; Take His Yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

- *
21. His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light.

INTERMISSION

PART TWO
THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH

CHORUS

22. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

ALTO ARIA

23. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

CHORUS

24. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

CHORUS

- *
25. And with His stripes we are healed!

CHORUS

26. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way
And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

TENOR RECITATIVE

27. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

TENOR ARIA

28. Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

TENOR RECITATIVE

29. He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

TENOR ARIA

30. But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

CHORUS

- *
31. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

SOPRANO ARIA

- *
32. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

BASS ARIA

33. Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

TENOR RECITATIVE

*

34. He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

TENOR ARIA

*

35. Thou shalt break them, Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

CHORUS

36. Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
HALLELUJAH.

SOPRANO ARIA

37. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

CHORUS

*

38. Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

BASS RECITATIVE

39. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

ARIA

40. The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed.

CHORUS

41. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

42. Amen.

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- (a) For its Permanent Fund. Established by a deed of trust on May 28, 1866, the net proceeds of the Great Festival of May, 1865, at the end of the Civil War, furnished the foundation of the Fund, and it has grown slowly by gifts and bequests.
- (b) For its Sustaining Fund. Established in 1959 for numerous objectives not covered by the Permanent Fund — but related to advancement of musical culture in America.
- (c) For its Contingency Reserve — a fund immediately available in case of stress and unforeseen conditions.
- (d) For its 150th Anniversary. Founded in Boston, Massachusetts in 1815, the Sesquicentennial Celebration will take place in Boston in 1965. The 150th Anniversary Fund has been established to meet all expenses of this noteworthy occasion.

It is suggested that, when possible, those contemplating gifts or bequests confer with the President of the Society regarding the Society's needs and objectives.

F. Otis Drayton, President
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HALLELUJAH CHORUS

It is said that the custom of the audience to rise during the singing of the "Hallelujah" Chorus began with the King's (George II) 1743 action on this occasion — the audience being unable to remain seated while the King was standing.

During the first performance of "Messiah" in America, which was presented by the Handel and Haydn Society December, 1818, the audience rose en masse during the singing of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, and remained standing until the last chords had dropped to silence. This custom has been followed annually by Bostonians ever since.

Of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, Handel himself, after he had finished the score, said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me and the Great God Himself."

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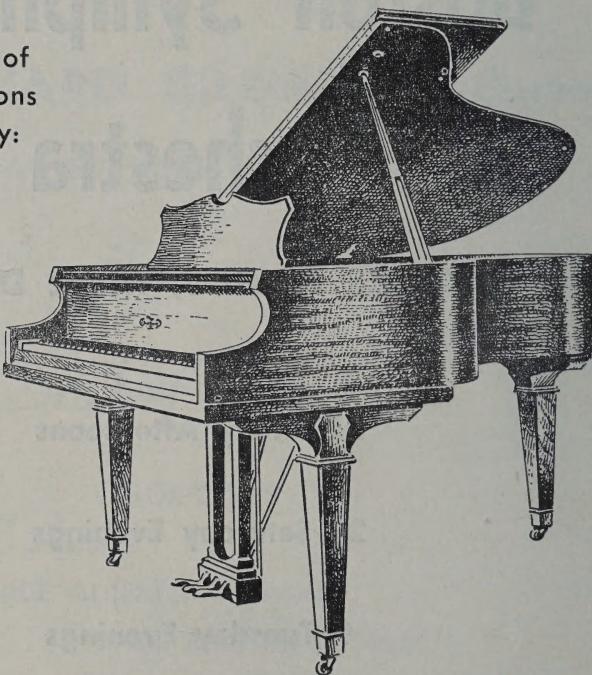
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